

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-22 are present for examination.

Claim Objection:

The objection to claim 11 is deemed to be overcome by setting for the in the instant amendment the status of the claim – i.e., “previously presented. The status which should have been indicated in the prior amendment was that of “Currently Amended”.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims 1-13 and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Stiles. Further, claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Stiles and further in view of Fitzpatrick. Finally, claim 15 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Stiles and further in view of Fitzpatrick and Smirnov.

The examiner’s rejections are respectfully traversed.

In order to better differentiate applicant’s invention from the prior art, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite, in part:

a eighth step of transmitting said reply information only
to other user clients and other developer clients who have
already acquired said at least one of said functional units and

As stated in applicant’s specification, the automatic notification of updates or answers to question to all users of the system would cause confusion and is not desirable. (See page 5, lines 7-9). As such, applicant embodiments notify only those users (user clients and developer clients) of the system that have already acquired the functional unit in question. In contrast, the meager disclosure of Watanabe at column 19, lines 22-29 and in Fig. 23 indicates only that all of the users of the system who satisfy a “mailing condition” will receive the updated information. Watanabe does not disclose what the “mailing condition” is and

how it is applied. Watanabe does not disclose that only those users who have already received the functional unit will be automatically notified of the reply information. Thus even combining Watanabe with the teachings of Stiles and additionally with the teachings of Fitzpatrick and Smirnov, the PTO has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103.

The above discussed limitations have also been made to all of applicant's independent claims and thus all of applicant's independent claims are deemed patentable over the prior art. Moreover, applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on the patentable independent claims.

Conclusions:

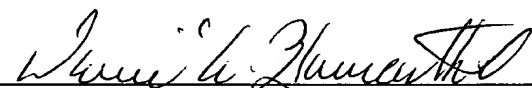
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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